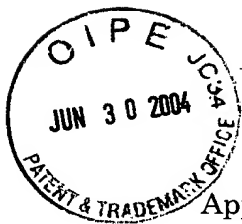


At 13612
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Attorney Docket: 027/49351
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: MARTIN DERLETH ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/714,456

Examiner: J. Morrow

Filed: NOVEMBER 17, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3612

Title: DASHBOARD OF A PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE
AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

**RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF 37 C.F.R. §1.192(c)**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is submitted that the Appeal Brief filed January 5, 2004, is in fact fully in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.192(c).

As set forth in MPEP 1206, an appellant must (A) state that the claims [of a claim group subject to a particular rejection] do not stand or fall together and (B) present arguments why the claims subject to the same rejection are separately patentable in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.192(c)(7). In the present situation, all of claims 16-21 are in a single claim group, i.e. that group of claims rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,559,868 to Nonaka et al. The "Grouping of Claims" portion on page 3 of the Appeal Brief explicitly states that (1) claim 18 does not stand or fall together with claims 16 and 17, (2) claims 19 and 20 do not stand or fall together with

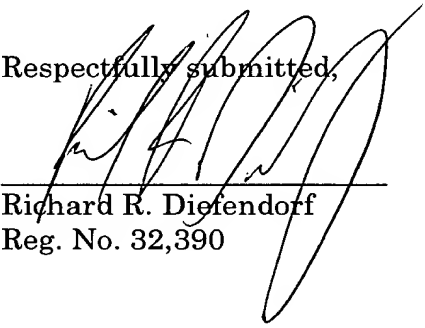
claims 16-18, and (3) claim 21 does not stand or fall together with any of claims 16-20. Arguments as to why claim 18 is separately patentable from claims 16 and 17 are set forth on pages 4-5 of the Appeal Brief, in section II of the "Argument" portion. Arguments as to why claims 19 and 20 are separately patentable from claims 16-18 are set forth on pages 5-6 of the Appeal Brief, in section III of the "Argument" portion. Finally, arguments as to why claim 21 is separately patentable from claims 16-20 are set forth on pages 6-7 of the Appeal Brief, in section IV of the "Argument" portion.

The Appeal Brief filed January 5, 2004, is fully in compliance with all requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.192(c), and notification to this effect is requested.

June 30, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,



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